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High Hall

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Harvard

THE

NARRATIVE

Of the PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

Session-house

For LONDON and MIDDLESEX.

Giving an Account.

Of the TRYALS of divers Traitors, Clippers, Coyners,
Highway-men, and other Notorious Offenders.

The Number Condemned to Die, to be Whipt, &c.
With their respective Crimes.

THe first Tryed on *Wednesday* in the Forenoon were two Women; one for Stealing an old Farringden Gown and other Cloaths; the other for a piece of Linnen-cloth: The Jury found them both Guilty, only under the value of 10 *d*. But against the latter of them there was another Indictment, for Stealing a Silver Tankard out of an House where she took Lodgings, in *Southampton-Buildings*, coming thither in good Habit, and pretending her self a substantial Gentlemans Wife, who (he said) would come to her within a Day or two out of the Country; but desiring some Beer to be by her Bed-side, got up early next Morning, and ran away with the Tankard. So that on this Indictment she was found Guilty of Felony.

So likewise was a Servant-Maid who had robbed her Master, stealing his Keys, and then twenty eight Pounds and odd Money out of his Trunk, and then absconding herself till she was taken.

Two Youngmen (the one a kind of a Fruiterer, the other a Powderer) were Tryed for Murdering a Watchman. The Case was thus: The Fruiterer carrying some Goods to Market, very early in the Morning, and being accompanied with this Powderer, two Watchmen stopp'd them near *Peter-Night-Row*, and would have them go along before the Constable; which they feared somewhat unwilling to do, but at last consented: And as they were going along, the Powderer did, or caused to strike up one of the Watchmens Heel; as he testified, with an intent as he seems only to get from them; and thereupon a Fight began between them: And a person, that lives by the place, gave Evidence, that upon the first disturbance looking out at his Window, he heard one of them often cry, *Give me my Hat*; but of which side he was, he could not tell; but said, that presently after he saw the Fruiterer engaged with a person he did not know, who having got the new Prisoner by the Hair of the Head, did divers times knock the same against the Wall upon which the said Prisoner (the Fruiterer) was lying, and got under the said Watchman, and flung him down, and struck him with his watch-staff, giving him severe Blows and Bruises, of which he languish'd above three

three Moneths, and then died. The Fruiterer did what he could to get him Cured, promising to pay the Chyrurgeon; and the Deceased did declare, he did forgive him with all his heart. And that as for the Pewterer, he never so much as toucht him; yet he being in company with the other, and the first that began the Fray, and the Watchmen being upon their Duty, (as was proved by the Constable and Beadle, who that Night gave them their Charge and Stand) the Court gave Directions, That it was Murder by Law in them both; and they were found Guilty of Murder accordingly.

On Wednesday in the Afternoon, a Person of Honour and another Gentleman of Quality being prosecuted as Popish Recusants, did declare themselves Protestants, and proved that they had fully Conform'd to the Church of England, by receiving the Sacrament, and constantly attending and joyning in the Publick Liturgy of the Church.

Then a Carpenter's Servant, and a Coachman belonging to a Noble Person, were Tryed for Murdering a Gentleman at Hampton Court. The Carpenter's man upon his first Apprehension and now at the Bar did confess, that he himself did the Murder, having in a most barbarous manner clef his Head with an Ax, which was produced in Court. But he also added, That the Coachman Arraigned with him did put him upon, and bribe him to do that horrid Deed; because, he said, he had spoken ill words of somebody he belong'd to; promising to give him Forty Shillings and a better thing [for so were his words] for the same, and that thereupon he did it; but had no body could prove any of all this. Only it was proved, that when it was told the Coachman, that such an one was Murdered, he said, It was no matter, for he us'd to speak ill of a Person of Quality, or words to that effect, on which he was taken upon Suspicion. But this did not seem a sufficient proof to Convict, several persons of Esteem testifying his honest Conversation, &c. so he was found Not Guilty. But the other, who confessed he did the Murder, and afterwards took the Gentleman's Money out of his Pockets and his Watch, which when he was taken he was found exposing for sale, was most justly Condemned.

A Substantial Housekeeper had two Indictments brought against him, for a small parcel of Bricks, and another time for Tiles; but it appeared there had been Dealings between him and the Prosecutors, and that the Goods were publicly carried away (as bought) in the day-time, and that there had been Bar-leases mutually Sealed, and these very things at that time mentioned. So that upon both he was brought in not Guilty, there appearing no reason to imagine it a Felony.

There was leave asked of the Court to bring in an Indictment of Misdemeanour against an eminent Officer of the City, touching some menacing Words and Miscarriages said to be used by him towards the Grand Jury that served for London last Sessions, which (after a defensive explanatory Speech made by the Gentleman concerned, and other pertinent Disconforts) was freely granted by the Court, declaring that equal Right should be done to all, and nothing denied that was allowed by Law; or to that effect, for the debate being long, we would not wrong the Court, or persons concerned, by pretending an exact Relation of that affair, farther than in General.

A Gentleman was Indicted for Murder at the assize in this purpose. The Reformer sent in some Cloaths to be mended or altered, to an eminent Tailor, and one of the Workmen promised him they should be done by such a day. But coming for them, he found they had disappointed him, which grieved him in some passion, to add to which, one on the Shop-board told him, that he had left some Money to drink, the work had been finished; whereupon he drew a pulling stool over the Counter amongst them, but without doing mischief; and so went out of the Shop upon which, the Journeymen (as he alleged) set upon a hollow by way of defiance, then returning he caught up a pair of Sheets and threw it towards the Board (the



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ther aiming at any particular, or promiscuously, did not fully appear; but so it was, that they hit one of the men, and gave him a grievous wound, of which he languished some time, and dyed; though it was the opinion of some Surgeons, that the same might not be the occasion of his death, yet it was proved, that he was an healthy man before, and never enjoyed himself afterwards, but complained thereof ~~at the death~~ *at the death*. However, these appearing no prepetrated Malice, nor particular aim at him, upon consideration thereof, and all Circumstances, too tedious to recite, the Jury thought fit to find it Manslaughter.

After this, Four persons were brought to the Bar, viz. one Mr. Markland and his Wife, and Maid servant, and a Refiner that dwelt in *Great-street*, all Indicted for High-Treason, for Clipping and Impairing the Kings Coin; Markland had formerly been a Brewer, and lived in good fashion, but failed, and was Imprisoned in the Kings-Bench, there Poverty, and an Ill Conscience, and bad Company, taught him this mischievous Clipping Trade; which he has since followed to great advantage, living like a Gentleman by the Duch-side in *Black-fryers*. The Evidence against him, was, One that being informed he was a Clipper, got a Warrant, and in searching his House, found a shilling under a Chest of Drawers, just newly Clipt, and not so much as rounded; and also two low stools on which they were wont to rub the Money after they had Circumcised it. Another person a poor woman gathering Herbs in *St. Georges* fields, found two pair of shears, and being advised to carry them to some Workmen that made such Instruments, happened to light on the very Man that made them, who being examined, swore that he sold them to Mr. Markland, and that what with new-steeling, and all, he had had of him four pair. Markland was askt what use he put those shears to, being a Brewer, which Trade has no need of such Tools; wherefore being able to assign no occasion, he utterly denied that he had any shears at all of the Witness, which rendered all the rest of his defence little regardable. But besides, there was one swore, that he had bargained with him to give him twenty two shillings in Clipt Money for Twenty Shillings full and large, and that he had actually allowed him such advantage, they having dealt so long on that score, as to have exchanged five or six hundred pounds. But that which put all out of doubt, was the Testimony of one of the same Gang, that he had actually seen him Clipping, so that there was no colour of excuse, but he was found guilty.

The Refiner had been formerly questioned and got off, and so to he did now, there being no direct proof, but that he held a Correspondence with the other, &c. so neither could it be fixt on his Wife or Maid, that they were actually concerned in it, though some Evidence and Circumstances were offered to that purpose, which were not Acquitted.

A little Boy, scarce high enough to peep over the Bar, was Convicted of petty Larceny, for stealing a Gentleman's Handkerchief. And an honest Coal, heaver towards *Ratcliffe*, who also keeps a Victualling-house, was Indicted on a master, which in it self appeared by the Evidence to be a very barbarous Robbery, and a great deal of Plate and other things of considerable Value stolen; amongst which was a watch, which the now Prisoner bringing to a Watchmakers only to know its value, and there being talk about buying it, the same was stoppt, and thereupon the Prisoner questioned: who proved by sufficient Witnesses, that the manner of his coming by it was thus: A person owing him eighteen pence (as he kept a publick-house) comes and pays it, and afterwards in discourse tells him, that if he would lend him twenty Shillings, he would leave him a sufficient Pawn. The man at first refused, but was at last prevailed upon by his Importunity to do it, the other promising to return the Money in two or three Hours; but not hearing of him for a long time, goes as aforesaid to enquire the value of his Pawn: Nor had he been wanting in endeavours to finde out the Fellow that brought it to him; which as yet he had not been able to do, though he had been at great Charges

Charges therein : Wherefore proving the delivery of it to him, and also producing people of Credit that justified his Reputation, he was Acquitted.

The business about Mr. Recorder coming again into debate, upon the Grand Juries finding the Bill against him, (after the petty Jury had been discharg'd by the Court some time before) a Dispute arose about trying it the very next Morning, and concerning returning a new Jury to that purpose, which after a tedious discussion terminated at last in this ; That the said Indictment should not be Tried till next Sessions. A more punctual Account whereof must therefore be expected hereafter.

A Tinker was brought on to a Trial for a Robbery and Murder on the High-way in the Night-time near *Staves* ; there appeared some shrewd Suspicions against him, increased by the ill conduct of his own Witnesses ; but it being also found, that some others might probably speak to some material points, that were now absent, the Jury was discharged of him, and his Trial refer'd to next Sessions.

A young Fellow was found Guilty of a Felony and Burglary ; he and Eleven more of the Gang violently entering into a Country-house, and binding the People, took away Goods of a great value, and 19 l. in ready Money. The Mistress of the House swore directly, that the Prisoner was one of them, so did also another Prisoner, who was in the Robbery, and that he himself made 4 l. of his share of the Booty : Nor did the Criminal at the Bar deny the Fact. But a Broker Indicted as Accessary after, having bought a Wedding-Ring, which the Gentlewoman found in his Shop, made a shift to get off.

There were in all Eight persons that received Sentence of Death ; *Ralph Markland* to be Drawn and Hanged, being Convicted of High-Treason for Clipping. *Francis Nicholson* for Murdering the Gentleman at Hampton, to be Hanged till dead, and his Body hung up in Chains on *Hounslow-Heath*. *John Watkins*, and *Edward Whitwick*, for killing the Watch-men by Ivy-lane, which the Law made Murder. *John Neal* for the said Burglary. *Eliz. Bull*, and *Priscilla Wyn*, for several Felonies.

There was no person this Sessions Burnt in the Hand ; one Gentleman had the Clergy, but the Burning was respited. And several to be Whipt for petty Larcenies.

FINIS

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